



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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## STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION Oct-01

**CODE:** 2021 International Residential Code and 2021 International Fire Code

**SECTION:** IRC Section R324 and IFC Section 1205

**QUESTION 1:** Can a jurisdiction use IFC Section 1205 when permitting on a residential structure?

**ANSWER:** Yes. This would allow designers and jurisdictions to utilize exception 1205.2.1 #5 allowing a pathway reduction for arrays less than 1,000sqft or less which occupy 33% or less of the total roof area.

This provision existed at one point in the 2012 IRC/IFC Washington State amendments Below.

**2012 IFC 605.11.1.2 Solar photovoltaic systems for Group R-3 residential and buildings built under the International Residential Code.** Solar photovoltaic systems for Group R-3 residential and buildings built under the International Residential Code shall comply with Sections 605.11.1.2.1 through 605.11.1.2.5.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Residential dwellings with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system installed.  
2. Residential dwellings with approved mechanical or passive ventilation systems.  
3. Where the fire code official determines that the slope of the roof is too steep for emergency access.  
4. Where the fire code official determines that vertical ventilation tactics will not be utilized.

5. These requirements shall not apply to roofs where the total combined area of the solar array does not exceed thirty-three percent as measured in plan view of the total roof area of the structure, where the solar array will measure 1,000 sq. ft. or less in area, and where a minimum eighteen inches unobstructed pathway shall be maintained along each side of any horizontal ridge.

**SUPERSEDES:** NONE

**REQUESTED BY:** Dave Kokot